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To the Editor:

In your September 27 story, "Leyla Zana—Why is she still in prison?" [see "From the ANCA Desk" column], you shed light on the critical retrial of four Kurdish Parliamentarians imprisoned in Turkey, one of whom is Leyla Zana. Her courageous attempts to expose the horrible treatment of the Kurds in Turkey landed her in prison for 15 years. How can we allow Turkey to get away with jailing Zana for testifying before the United States Congress about the vile human rights abuses the Turkish government commits against the Kurds?

I have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, which calls on Turkey to immediately and unconditionally release the four Kurdish parliamentarians from prison. House Resolution 302 currently has 18 cosponsors including Armenian Caucus co-chair Frank Pallone, Greek Caucus co-chairs Michael Bilirakis and Carolyn Maloney, and Democratic Presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich.

It is important to gain support for this bill so that we can continue to stand up for all minorities' rights in Turkey! If our country is going to use Turkey as an example of democracy to the governments in the region, we must ensure that gross violations of human rights are eradicated from that country! Contact your elected representatives and voice your support for H.R. 302!

*Bob Filner
Congressman, 51st District California*